

The National Idea as a Driving Force behind Ideospheric Transformation in Uzbekistan: Exploring its Implications and Impact

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ABSTRACT

The spiritual and educational reforms implemented as part of the Third Renaissance have significantly transformed the societal consciousness and worldview in our country. Central to this transformation is the life-affirming concept of “from national revival to national development,” which has emerged as a key guiding principle in shaping contemporary national identity and aspirations. This article offers an in-depth examination of these transformative reforms, focusing on their role in fostering a renewed sense of national purpose and cultural development. Furthermore, the article investigates the broader implications of these reforms on the collective psyche and cultural ethos of the nation. It delves into how the integration of national ideals into educational curricula and spiritual practices is intended to cultivate a sense of unity, purpose, and moral integrity among citizens. The article also addresses the challenges and successes encountered in this process, providing a comprehensive overview of how these efforts are shaping the future trajectory of the nation. In essence, this article provides a thorough analysis of the role of spiritual and educational reforms in advancing the nation’s collective aspirations, with a particular focus on the impact of nurturing national idea in guiding the youth and reinforcing the core values of society.

Keywords: Idea; Ideology; Renaissance; Spirituality; Humanism; Integration; Enlightenment; Initiative; Strategy; Justice; Evolution.

1. Introduction

A historical examination reveals a profound truth: the ascent of nations to prominence has often been catalyzed by their spiritual unity and the development of cohesive national ideas. This phenomenon underscores the pivotal role that shared ideologies and collective aspirations play in a nation’s rise to prominence and eventual establishment among the world’s developed nations. The enduring relevance of ideologies throughout human history vividly illustrates the transformative power of unifying concepts in shaping civilizations.

From the earliest records of human history, societies have continually sought to forge a common purpose through overarching ideas and ideologies that reflect their highest aspirations. These shared concepts have not only provided a framework for cultural and social cohesion but have also served as a driving force behind collective action and national development. Whether through religious doctrines, philosophical tenets, or socio-political ideologies, the quest for a unifying idea has been a fundamental aspect of human progress.

1.1. Study Objectives

The historical significance of these ideologies is evident in the way they have mobilized populations, inspired monumental achievements, and facilitated the emergence of influential civilizations. Such ideas often embody the core values and ambitions of a society, guiding its trajectory and shaping its identity. They act as a beacon, rallying people toward common goals and fostering a sense of belonging and purpose that transcends individual differences.

As nations navigate the complexities of modernity, the lessons from history continue to resonate. The ability of a unified national idea to inspire and mobilize remains as relevant today as in times past. Understanding this dynamic offers valuable insights into how contemporary societies can harness the power of collective vision to address

present-day challenges and achieve lasting progress. This introduction sets the stage for an exploration of how historical ideologies have shaped nations and how contemporary ideas continue to influence national development and unity.

2. Research Methodology

This article employs a multifaceted methodology to explore the impact of spiritual and educational reforms associated with the Third Renaissance on societal consciousness and national identity. The approach integrates historical analysis, qualitative research, curriculum review, and impact assessment to provide a comprehensive understanding of these reforms and their broader implications.

3. Results and Discussion

Today, as our country works towards establishing the foundation of the Third Renaissance, the idea of “from national revival to national rise” is considered our ultimate goal and strategic objective for this historical period. As stated by our President, Shavkat Mirziyoyev, “Our primary goal is to initiate a new era of Awakening, or to lay the groundwork for the Third Renaissance in Uzbekistan through comprehensive democratic reforms, including reforms in education. To achieve this, each of us and our entire society must deeply understand the essence of the Third Renaissance” [1].

Therefore, creating favorable conditions for the foundation of the Third Renaissance is central to our country’s reforms across all sectors, including state programs, education, personnel policy, and investment. This process requires us to make significant contributions to the international community in science, technology, information, culture, and the economy, and to achieve outstanding results. However, as we integrate globally, our national goal is to preserve our identity – our language, national characteristics, and spirituality. Consequently, reforms in the spiritual and educational spheres are focused on nurturing the younger generation in the spirit of national values, blending nationalism with universality in their worldview.

As stated by President Shavkat Mirziyoyev: “If the body of society’s life is the economy, then its soul and spirit are spirituality. As we strive to build a new Uzbekistan, we rely on two strong pillars. The first is a robust economy based on market principles. The second is a strong spirituality rooted in the rich heritage of our ancestors and national values” [2]. Therefore, all efforts, renewal, and creative activities in our country are grounded in the combination of a strong economy and strong spirituality. Our national idea primarily aims to preserve and strengthen the cohesion, unity, and territorial integrity of our people. Additionally, it serves to define the highest goals, development milestones, and strategic direction of our nation.

Although the national idea is expressed in various ways, its core essence revolves around the future of the people and social goals. When the national idea embodies the principles of humanism and reflects the will and aspirations of the people, it plays an unparalleled role in uniting society and fully realizing its potential. Analyzing the Japanese development model, which was recognized by the international community in the 20th century, reveals that Japanese national ideology is built on concepts such as “national state system” (kokutai), “civic duty”, “Japanese spirit”, “entrepreneurship”, “nationalism”, “dedication”, “patriotism”, “paternalism”, “loyalty to the community” and “modernization”. These concepts have laid the foundation for the country’s significant achievements. At its

core, this ideology is based on the principle of the golden mean, exemplified by formulas such as “Japanese spirit - European science” or “Eastern ethics - Western technology”, which underpin Japan’s approach to international relations.

Any achievements and results obtained during the current integration process, the idea of New Uzbekistan, and the spirit of the Third Renaissance are always a source of support for us. Today, we can proudly say that, thanks to the foresight, solidarity, and selfless efforts of our wise people, we have successfully overcome all challenges. From this perspective, the Third Renaissance, which has restored our human dignity, pride, honor, religion, and national statehood, will always be a shining chapter in the glorious history of our Motherland. As President Shavkat Mirziyoyev noted, “The ideology of the new Uzbekistan that we are creating will be one of goodness and humanism. When we speak of ideology, we refer primarily to the cultivation of thought and the education of both national and universal values. These are rooted in the concepts and values of our people that have endured for thousands of years” [3].

Therefore, in today’s era of integration, we are working to enhance the role and effectiveness of spiritual and educational activities in our republic and to strengthen efforts in this field. In particular, the Presidential decrees adopted on March 26, 2021, “On the Establishment of the Targeted Fund for Supporting Spirituality and Creativity” and “On Measures for the Radical Improvement of the System of Spiritual and Educational Work” are aimed at effectively addressing the tasks in this area.

New Uzbekistan has also been advancing its initiatives on spiritual and educational issues within prestigious international and regional organizations. Notably, the initiative proposed by our country to adopt the resolution “Enlightenment and Religious Tolerance” at the 72nd session of the United Nations General Assembly received broad support from the international community. The resolution was adopted on December 12, 2018, with the co-sponsorship of over 50 countries during the plenary session.

Therefore, in order to promote the national idea, increase the effectiveness of spiritual and educational work, and further develop literature and reading within society, the Foundation for the Support of Spirituality and Creativity was established based on the “Creativity” public fund. The new way of thinking and working in society necessitates the creation of national “centers of intelligence”. Unfortunately, there are very few analysts and experts who thoroughly understand the political and social processes around us and communicate them effectively. In this context, it is essential to fundamentally reassess scientific and practical research aimed at protecting our society from spiritual threats. In this regard, institutions such as Spirituality and Enlightenment, the “Strategy of Development”, Centres of Islamic Civilization, and research institutes in the socio-humanitarian field serve as true “centers of intellect” and their work is highly significant.

The reforms being implemented in our country have outlined the development trends for the near and medium-term future, and the priority tasks in this regard have been set. Special attention has been given to ensuring the continuity and sustainability of reforms based on the principle “From the Strategy of Actions to the Strategy of Development”. The development strategy comprises seven priorities and 100 goals, which are articulated through the following ideas:

firstly, build a people-friendly state by enhancing human dignity and further developing a free civil society; secondly, establish justice and the rule of law as fundamental conditions for development in our country; thirdly, accelerate the development of the national economy and ensure high growth rates; fourthly, implement fair social policies and invest in human capital development; fifthly, promote spiritual development and elevate the industry to a new level; sixthly, address universal problems based on national interests; seventhly, strengthen the security and defense potential of our country while conducting an open, pragmatic, and active foreign policy [4].

The “Uzbekistan – 2030” strategy has been adopted to fulfil our people’s aspirations and commitment to building a free, prosperous, and powerful New Uzbekistan. It aims to create opportunities for every citizen to develop their potential, nurture a healthy, knowledgeable, and spiritually mature generation, establish a robust economy that integrates into global production networks, and ensure justice, the rule of law, security, and stability.

The “Uzbekistan – 2030” strategy, developed based on the experience gained from implementing the New Uzbekistan development strategy and the results of public discussions, reflects the following key objectives:

firstly, achieve a position among countries with above-average income through sustainable economic growth; secondly, establish an education, healthcare, and social protection system that fully meets the needs of the population and adheres to international standards; thirdly, create favourable ecological conditions for the population; fourthly, build a just and modern state that serves the people; fifthly, ensure the sovereignty and security of the country [5].

Today, globalization in the world and the increasing integration of economies and societies around the world make the issue of spirituality and enlightenment more urgent than ever. After all, as an inevitable event in the history of mankind, the world is merging into a single space as a result of the exchange of goods and products, information, knowledge and cultural values. At such a time, it is important for nations and peoples, peoples and countries to preserve their national identity and unique individuality [6].

On December 22, 2023, President Shavkat Mirziyoyev of Uzbekistan outlined his views on nine key areas at the extended meeting of the Council of Spirituality and Enlightenment of the Republic and proposed the following important initiatives:

Firstly, the development of a separate program document on the national idea, which will serve as a methodological foundation for spirituality and culture. Currently, there are instances where certain groups oppose our Constitution and laws with their religious views, and worldly values are sometimes deemed forbidden. Therefore, it was emphasized that intellectuals, enlightened individuals, and compatriots who have performed Hajj and Umrah should act as advocates for spirituality and encourage people to do good.

Secondly, there is the issue of increasing the responsibility of governors in the cultural and educational sphere. It was announced that, in addition to the four existing sectors in the regions, a new spiritual sector will be established to launch Spirituality and Enlightenment Centers in districts and cities. These centers will function as part of the local Spirituality and Enlightenment Councils;

Thirdly, a program for the development of theater art was proposed. This program includes commissioning creative works for the best plays, improving the skills of creative and support staff through training in foreign theaters, and establishing an award named after Mannon Uyghur to support young directors. Additionally, one day each month has been designated as “Theatre Day” in enterprises and institutions, allowing employees to attend performances;

Fourthly, starting in 2024, a cultural center equipped with a stage hall, library, cinema, and club rooms will be established in each district. A program to enhance the material and technical resources of over 600 local amateur artistic groups has been adopted, with 100 billion soums allocated for this purpose;

Fifthly, there is a focus on strengthening the study and development of charity and its artistic aspects on a scientific basis. The creation of schools dedicated to preserving and continuing traditions such as maqam, epic singing, satin and adras production, pottery, and jewellery was also discussed.

Sixthly, the issue of supporting the development of music and dance arts. It was emphasized that grants for scientific research would be introduced to study music and dance arts and to increase the number of scientific personnel in the field;

Seventhly, there is a focus on expanding Uzbek cultural diplomacy on the international stage. Starting in 2024, Tashkent will host a conference dedicated to the global creative economy, and an international scientific conference titled “Island Culture” will be held in Nukus. A seven-year program to enhance museum activities has been approved, which includes plans to construct new buildings for the Museum of History and the Museum of Art. Additionally, the program will address the history of the Timurids, update the exhibition at the Museum of Nature, and undertake a renovation of the Museum of Literature named after Alisher Navoi. Additionally, it was determined that new exhibitions would be organized in our museums, particularly at the Centre for Islamic Civilization, covering the First and Second Renaissance, the history of statehood, and the activities of great scholars. Cooperation with France will establish the National Restoration Centre, and the conservation of the pages of the Holy Book – the Uthman Qur'an – will be implemented;

Eighthly, there is a focus on the development of the film industry. In this context, a program will be developed to create films about the glorious past of our country as part of the “Living History” series. Foreign creators, film companies, and investors will also be involved in this initiative. Additionally, there is a need to produce multi-part animated films for children that depict the exemplary lives of our great ancestors.

In order to develop cinema in harmony with the economy, the task of establishing “free economic cinema zones” was assigned to the Bukhara, Samarkand, and Tashkent regions. It was also emphasized that there is a need to fundamentally reform the existing system of national TV series, enhancing them to be more ideologically, artistically, and technically compelling. To support this, an initiative to create a “Cinema Park”, similar to an IT park, has been proposed;

Ninthly, a program for the development of fine and applied arts has been adopted. Specifically, the Central Exhibition Hall will be reconstructed and upgraded, a modern gallery building will be constructed on the art fund's premises, and the Young Artists' Center will be established with 40 creative workshops. Additionally, a national paper-making workshop will be organized to integrate the education of calligraphy and miniature art with practical experience [7].

4. Conclusion

In summary, the transition from the Strategy of Actions to the Strategy of Development marks a pivotal moment in our country's evolution, with the concept of "from national revival to national development" serving as a cornerstone of this transformative journey. This idea is not merely a guiding principle but a fundamental framework that underpins the political-legal, socio-economic, and scientific-educational structures critical for the advancement of New Uzbekistan. The notion of moving from national revival to national development encapsulates a dynamic vision for the future, emphasizing the need to build upon past achievements while ambitiously steering towards sustainable progress. This concept integrates a comprehensive approach that addresses the intricacies of modern governance, economic growth, and educational advancement, all while fostering a cohesive national identity and collective purpose. As New Uzbekistan continues to evolve, this guiding principle will be instrumental in shaping policies and initiatives that align with the broader goals of national development. The integration of this concept into various frameworks ensures that progress is both rooted in historical context and oriented towards future aspirations. By leveraging this vision, the country can effectively navigate the complexities of development, balancing innovation with tradition and global engagement with national interests. The success of this transition will depend on the effective implementation of policies that reflect the core values of the national development concept. This includes fostering a robust legal framework, advancing socio-economic reforms, and enhancing the educational system to support a knowledgeable and empowered populace. By embedding the principles of national revival and development into every aspect of governance and society, New Uzbekistan can achieve a holistic and sustainable transformation.

Declarations

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Competing Interests Statement

The author declares no competing financial, professional, or personal interests.

Consent for publication

The author declares that he consented to the publication of this study.

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